

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01778 110800Z

14-11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 /095 W

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R 110716Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2523

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 1778

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GB YO EGEN

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BONGO VISITS YUGOSLAVIA

1. SUMMARY: GABON PRESIDENT OMAR BONGO AND DELEGATION COMPLETED FOUR-DAY VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA ON APR 9. VISIT WAS MARKED BY CONCLUSION OF THREE ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY

2. PRESIDENT EL HAJ OMAR BONGO OF GABON VISITED YUGOSLAVIA APR 6-9, ACCOMPANIED BY VICE PRESIDENT MEBIAME, FONMIN OKUMBA D'OKWASEGUE, ECON MINS MBOUY-BOUTZIT AND MOUKAMBI, AND OTHERS.

3. ON APR 6, FOLLOWING SHORT MEETING WITH TITO, BONGO AND PARTY PLUNGED INTO TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV COUNTERPARTS. TALKS CONTINUED INTERMITTENTLY DURING BONGO'S STAY, RESULTING IN AGREEMENTS ON ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, TRADE, AND ON FORMATION OF JOINT YUGOSLAV-GABONESE ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES.

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4. ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, WHICH WERE ALREADY INITIALLED

DURING MARCH VISIT OF FONMIN COMMISSIONER REKANGAL (SEE BELGRADE 1202), REPORTEDLY ENVISAGE BROAD AREAS OF COOPERATION IN INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

5. YUGOSLAV ENTERPRISES ARE TO HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, FARMING AND AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMBINES, APARTMENTS, ROADS AND TIMBER PROCESSING ENTERPRISES, AS WELL AS COOPERATE IN PROSPECTING AND EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES. DELEGATION OF YUGOSLAV EXPERTS IS TO VISIT GABON SOON TO LOOK INTO SPECIFIC POSSIBILITIES.

6. GABON AND YUGOSLAVIA REPORTEDLY PLAN TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS ON GUARANTEE OF INVESTMENT, ON AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION, AND ON VISA FORMALITIES FOR YUGOSLAV WORKERS ENGAGED IN GABON. MIXED ENTERPRISES ARE TO BE FORMED BY FIRMS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

7. APR 7 GABONESE SAW PERMANENT WEAPONS DISPLAY AT NIKINCI, THEN TOURED NOVI SAD. APR 8 BONGO INSPECTED MILITARY MUSEUM AT KALEMEGDAN (BELGRADE'S CITADEL), AND TOURED OIL REFINERY AT PANCEVO. DURING AFTERNOON HE ONCE AGAIN MET WITH TITO.

8. JOINT COMMUNIQUE REPEATED PRINCIPAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STANDS OF THE NON-ALIGNED WITH SPECIAL MENTION GIVEN TO "THE QUICKENED PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION" IN FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES.

9. COMMENT: REPORTED ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS INDICATE INTENSIVE COMING YUGOSLAV EFFORT TO DEVELOP MARKETS FOR EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES IN GABON, FOLLOWING ON CURRENT INITIAL 24 MILLION DOL CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A CONFERENCE CENTER IN LIBREVILLE. YUGOSLAV FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR INVESTMENT OR CREDIT ARE LIMITED, BUT AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED OR UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING KUWAIT AND LIBYA, ENCOMPASS POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATIVE FINANCING IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES SUCH AS GABON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, MEETINGS, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA01778
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750126-0847
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750460/aaaacczw.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 SEP 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BONGO VISITS YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, GB, YO, (BONGO, OMAR)
To: STATE LIBREVILLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006